

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 530

By Marrero

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Reverend Neasbie Alston on the celebration of his ninetieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Neasbie Alston will celebrate his ninetieth birthday on January 30, 2012, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the son of John and Susie Hayes Alston, Rev. Alston was born and raised in Tipton County; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Alston is a highly respected member of the Memphis community, having served as a pastor locally for nearly fifty years; and

WHEREAS, educated at Frazier High School, Owen Junior College, and Tennessee State University, the Rev. Alston obtained a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Mississippi Industrial College; and

WHEREAS, a veteran of World War II, Rev. Neasbie Alston enlisted in the United States Army in September of 1942 at the CP Forrest Center in Tipton County; and

WHEREAS, for twenty-seven years, he served with acumen and alacrity as an employee of the Hughes Elementary School District, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work before taking his much deserved retirement in 1984; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of American Baptist Seminary, Reverend Neasbie Alston holds an honorary doctorate degree from Tennessee School of Religion, which honored his more than sixty years as a pastor; and

WHEREAS, he is the founder of the Ecumenical Christian Leadership School and, during his illustrious career, Reverend Alston has provided inspirational leadership as the pastor of New Beginning Ministries Church of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Gospel Temple Missionary Baptist Church, which he led for forty-five years, Salem Missionary Baptist Church, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, and Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, he was also the host of *Alston Family Prayer Time* on Channel 17 for more than twenty years and served as the President of the State Congress of the Christian Education Department, the Vice President of the BME Convention, and a moderator of the West Tennessee Association, in addition to leading mission trips to Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the beloved husband of Bishop Bettye J. Rodgers Alston, Reverend Alston is the proud father of ten children, the devoted grandfather of twenty grandchildren, and the treasured great-grandfather of seventeen great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, as Rev. Alston approaches his tenth decade, he is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events and pursuing his hobbies of singing, fishing, travel, and physical fitness; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the Reverend Dr. Neasbie Alston on the celebration of his ninetieth birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.